

Site M:26/10/19

Rebecca T. Veirs House

100 West Montgomery Avenue

Built: 1888, partially destroyed 1945 Private

Mrs. Rebecca Veirs' three story mansion was described in 1901 as one of the most attractive houses in town. Dr. Edward Anderson and family lived here from 1917-1939; a picture of it then shows a porch and bell-shaped roof over the left side two-story semi-octagonal bay, with wisteria clad double-tiered porch across the front and shingling on the gable ends. All these features were lost in a 1945 fire which severely damaged the house. It is now covered with asbestos shingle siding and has only a plain entrance porch between unadorned twin two-story bays. Its 11 rooms have been partitioned for its use as a rooming house, and it is in fair condition.

The original ornamental wrought iron fence still surrounds the property on three sides.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. *m; 26/10/19*

Magi No. 1650352604

DOE    yes    no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Rebecca Veirs Houseand/or common   

## 2. Location

street & number 100 West Montgomery Avenue    not for publicationcity, town Rockville    vicinity of    congressional district 8state Maryland county Montgomery

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<u>  </u> district	<u>  </u> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<u>  </u> agriculture	<u>  </u> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<u>  </u> unoccupied	<u>  </u> commercial	<u>  </u> park
<u>  </u> structure	<u>  </u> both	<u>  </u> work in progress	<u>  </u> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<u>  </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>  </u> entertainment	<u>  </u> religious
<u>  </u> object	<u>  </u> in process	<u>  </u> yes: restricted	<u>  </u> government	<u>  </u> scientific
	<u>  </u> being considered	<u>  </u> yes: unrestricted	<u>  </u> industrial	<u>  </u> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<u>  </u> military	<u>  </u> other:

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name H. W. Goldbergstreet & number 5712 Tanglewood Drive telephone no.: 229-5408city, town Bethesda, Maryland state and zip code 20817

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Land Records liber 4048street & number Montgomery County Courthouse folio 759city, town Rockville state Maryland

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title National Register (W. Montgomery Ave. Historic District) - 1974  
Locally designated historic district - 1974date M-NCPPC - 1976☒ federal ☒ state ☒ county ☒ localdepository for survey records City of Rockvillecity, town Rockville state Maryland 20850

## 7. Description

Survey No. M: 26/10/19

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This 2 1/2 story frame house is located on the southwest corner of Montgomery Avenue at South Adams Street. It was built in 1888 in the Queen Anne style of architecture, and was once described as "one of the most attractive houses in town", but today presents a different picture.

The accompanying photo illustrates the appearance of the house in the early 20th century. A fire in 1945 resulted in the removal of the wisteria-covered front and side porches, the bell shaped roof topping the east side bay, all shutters, the contrasting frame siding, and in fact, all of the decorative features.

The building today is a large, rectangular, four bay by two bay block, with an asphalt roof, sheathing of composition asbestos shingles and a brick foundation parged with cement. The north-facing front facade has a central covered entry porch (with off-center entrance door) flanked by angled three-sided (but dissimilar) bays with nearly flat roofs. Gables are found at the ends of the east and west facades, and there is an interior brick chimney at the east end. There is a one bay by one bay two-story shed-roofed addition to the east of the main block.

The land slopes off to the south, so the rear elevation is of 3 1/2 stories. It is topped by a shed dormer. There is an ornamental wrought iron fence on the north and east sides of the property, but it is rusty and in poor repair. The brick sidewalk on the South Adams Street side is done in herringbone pattern.

All of the fireplaces, interior woodwork, window trim, kitchen and even the square "fancy" window flanking the front entry (which has been painted over) are gone. Originally of eleven rooms, it has been partitioned for use as a rooming house.

Thirty years of use as a boarding house for transient men, following on the heels of the 1945 fire, has taken a toll on this once proud house. Its neglect is hidden from too much inspection by the towering trees and shielding fence.

### FOOTNOTES:

- #7 1. Advertisement of Foreclosure Sale, Equity Case #1848, p. 281  
Judgment Record T.D. 16
- #8 2. Various deeds from John and William Miller, Montgomery County Land Records; Liber E.B.P. 23, folio 326 and Liber J.A. 6, folio 238
3. Montgomery County Sentinel, July 6, 1888
4. Equity Case #1848 and Tax Records 1888-1902
5. Will of Df. Edward Anderson, Liber H.C.A. 19, folio 371
6. Land Records, Liber 1004, folio 463

# 8. Significance

Survey No. M: 26/10/19

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1888, 1897 Builder/Architect T.C. Groomes

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/or  
Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Located on a sloping area of Rockville once called "Quality Hill", this house was built by Rebecca Veirs in 1888 as her own home. Rebecca Veirs was one of the wealthiest widows in the area and invested heavily in the development of Rockville's West End. She built this Queen Anne villa near the Beall-Dawson house in this preferred residential area, and after her death it remained a fine specimen of the period. A disastrous fire in 1945 severely damaged it, and it subsequently became a rooming house.

The 1865 Martinet & Bond map shows M. Green's carpenter shop on this site. John Miller had resurveyed these lots in the 1860's and renamed the land "Miller's Hope".<sup>2</sup> His own house was located at #5 North Adams Street, and in the 1870's he used this lot for his stable. In 1887 Rebecca Veirs purchased this half-acre lot from him, being lot 56 and part of lot 55 in the original plat of Town of Rockville.

Between 1883 and 1900 Mrs. Veirs bought and sold thirteen properties in the West End of Rockville, including one 12-acre parcel she subdivided. She chose local builder T.C. Groomes to build this "three story mansion"<sup>3</sup> on this lot in the latest "Villa" style and lived here until 1900. But her many speculative ventures were under-capitalized, and in 1901 she was in default on the mortgage. In 1901 "the premises on which Rebecca Veirs resides" was sold to Dr. Edward Anderson, the third generation of his family to practice medicine in Rockville.<sup>4</sup>

Upon his death in 1917, Dr. Anderson devised the house to his wife Alice and then to his step-daughter Noma Thompson.<sup>5</sup> Starting in 1939 Ms. Thompson set out to write the history of Rockville, compiling assorted historical facts and adding sociological features, recollections and interviews to produce Western Gateway to the National Capital; Rockville, Maryland, published in 1949.

After the fire in 1945 which not only damaged the house considerably, but destroyed some of Ms. Thompson's research, she sold the property.<sup>6</sup> Soon thereafter it became a rental apartment unit and finally a rooming house.

(Footnotes on opposite page)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M:26/10/9

Montgomery County Land, Equity and Orphan's Court Records  
Montgomery County Sentinel

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 10,395 square feet

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A 

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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot 56 and part of Lot 55, original Plat of Rockville  
(821½ feet on Montgomery Avenue by 126 feet on South Adams Street)

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Anne W. Cissel/Eileen McGuckian, arch. desc.organization Peerless Rockvilledate July 1984street & number P.O. Box4262telephone 762-0096city or town Rockvillestate Maryland 20850

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
Shaw House  
21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 269-2438

M: 26/10/19  
100 West Montgomery Avenue, Rockvi



Residence of Dr. Edward Anderson (Home of Author)  
Destroyed by fire 1945

from: Western Gateway to the  
National Capital; Rockville  
Maryland (N. Thompson, 1949)







M: 26/10/19  
REBECCA VEIRS HOUSE  
100 W Montgomery Ave.  
NORTHEAST ELEVATION

1013-8

RICHARD H. ANDREWS  
1608 Farrington Avenue  
Rockville, Md. 20851

AUGUST, 1984